

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for enabling a moving picture mail server to receive moving picture mail from a first mobile terminal and transmit the received moving picture mail to the second mobile terminal, comprising the steps:
 - 5 (a) confirming a support codec of the first mobile terminal serving as a transmitting side;
 - (b) confirming a support codec of the second mobile terminal serving as a receiving side;
 - (c) determining whether or not the support codecs of the first and second
 - 10 mobile terminals are compatible;
 - (d) if the support codecs of the first and second mobile terminals are compatible, transmitting the moving picture mail received from the first mobile terminal to the second mobile terminal;
 - (e) if the support codecs of the first and second mobile terminals are
 - 15 incompatible, transcoding the moving picture mail received from the first mobile terminal on the basis of the support codec of the second mobile terminal; and
 - (f) transmitting the transcoded moving picture mail to the second mobile terminal.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step (e) further comprises
20 the steps of:
 - selecting a first codec corresponding to the support codec of the first mobile terminal and a second codec corresponding to the support codec of the second mobile terminal;
 - decoding the moving picture mail received from the first mobile terminal by
 - 25 means of the selected first codec; and
 - coding the decoded moving picture mail by means of the selected second codec.
3. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first codec comprises a
30 Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) codec and the second codec comprises a wavelet codec.
4. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the step (a) further comprises the steps of:
 - receiving a moving-picture mail transmission notification message from the first mobile terminal; and
 - 35 confirming the first mobile terminal's support codec information included

- in the moving-picture mail transmission notification message, and
wherein the step (b) further comprises the steps of:
notifying the second mobile terminal of the fact that the moving picture mail
has arrived; and
- 5 receiving a response message from the second mobile terminal, and
confirming the second mobile terminal's support codec information included in the
response message.
- 10 5. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting the
moving picture mail from the moving picture mail server to the second mobile
terminal further comprises the steps of:
when the second mobile terminal requests that the moving picture mail be
transmitted, transmitting the moving picture mail at a preset transmission rate; and
15 checking buffering information of the moving picture mail fed from the
second mobile terminal, newly setting the transmission rate according to a change
of the buffering information, editing the moving picture mail according to the newly
set transmission rate, and performing a transmission operation.
6. The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the step of newly setting the
transmission rate comprises the step of:
20 confirming a new transmission rate based upon the buffering information
transmitted from the second mobile terminal through a transmission rate change
table and setting the confirmed new transmission rate, the moving picture mail
server including the transmission rate change table corresponding to the buffering
information.
- 25 7. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the step of editing the moving
picture mail according to the newly set transmission rate further comprises the step
of:
performing an editing operation by reducing a size of an image frame
according to the newly set transmission rate so that image data can be reproduced
in real time.
- 30 8. The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the step of allowing the
second mobile terminal to generate the buffering information further comprises the
steps of:
35 receiving the moving picture mail from the moving picture mail server,
storing the received moving picture mail in a buffer, reproducing data of the
received moving picture mail, and buffering other data of the received moving

picture mail when an amount of data accumulated in the buffer has reached a predetermined size or more;

allowing the second mobile terminal to generate buffering information based upon the amount of data accumulated in the buffer at a predetermined time interval
5 and to transmit the buffering information to the moving picture mail server; and

repeatedly performing an operation for receiving moving picture mail from the moving picture mail server according to a newly set transmission rate based upon the buffering information, storing the moving picture mail in the buffer, and reproducing the moving picture mail.

10 9. The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the step of generating the buffering information further comprises the steps of:

checking the amount of data accumulated in the buffer at a predetermined time; and

15 deciding the buffering information according to the amount of data accumulated in the buffer and transmitting the determined buffering information to the moving picture mail server.

10. An apparatus for communicating moving picture mail, comprising:

a first mobile terminal equipped with a first codec for transmitting moving picture mail coded by the first codec;

20 a second mobile terminal equipped with a second codec for decoding received moving picture mail by the second codec;

a moving picture mail server comprising:

a database for storing codec information of the first and second mobile terminals;

25 a transmission controller for confirming support codecs of the first and second mobile terminals to output codec information and generating a path control signal of the moving picture mail on the basis of the codec information; and

30 a switch for setting a first path for receiving the moving picture mail from the first mobile terminal and a second path for outputting the moving picture mail to the second mobile terminal, according to the path control signal; and

a transcoding server comprising:

35 a coding controller for generating a selection control signal for selecting a first codec corresponding to the first mobile terminal and a second codec corresponding to the second mobile terminal according to the codec information output from the transmission controller;

the first codec selected by the coding controller, the first codec decoding the moving picture mail received from the first mobile terminal through the first path; and

5 the second codec for performing a transcoding operation by coding the moving picture mail so that the second mobile terminal can decode the coded moving picture mail and outputting a result of the transcoding operation to the second path.

11. The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first codec comprises
10 a Joint Photographic Expert Group (JPEG) codec.

12. The apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein the second codec comprises a wavelet codec.